

NO: X06-UWY-CV18-6046436S: SUPERIOR COURT  
 ERICA LAFFERTY, ET AL: COMPLEX LITIGATION DOCKET  
 V. AT WATERBURY  
 ALEX EMRIC JONES, ET AL: MARCH 16, 2022

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BEFORE THE HONORABLE BARBARA N. BELLIS, JUDGE

A P P E A R A N C E S:

Representing the Plaintiffs:

KOSKOFF, KOSKOFF & BIEDER  
 Attorney Alinor Sterling, Esq.  
 350 Fairfield Avenue  
 Bridgeport, CT 06604

Representing Defendant Alex Jones:

PATTIS & SMITH, LLC.  
 Attorney Zachary Riland, Esq.  
 383 Orange Street, 1st Floor  
 New Haven, CT 06511

Representing Defendant Genesis Communications Network,  
 Inc.:

BRIGNOLE, BUSH & LEWIS  
 Attorney Mario Cerame, Esq.  
 73 Wadsworth Street  
 Hartford, CT 06106

RECORDED AND TRANSCRIBED BY:

Linda Coon  
 Court Monitor/Court Reporter  
 400 Grand Street  
 Waterbury, CT 06702

1 THE COURT: Again, this is Judge Bellis. We are  
2 on the record in the Lafferty v. Jones matter. Lead  
3 docket number Waterbury CV18-6046436.

4 And starting with plaintiff's counsel, if you  
5 could identify yourselves for the record?

6 ATTY. STERLING: Good morning, Your Honor.  
7 Alinor Sterling for the plaintiffs.

8 THE COURT: Good morning.

9 And for the Jones defendants?

10 ATTY. RILAND: Good morning, Your Honor.  
11 Attorney Zachary Riland from Pattis and Smith for the  
12 Jones' defendants.

13 THE COURT: Good morning.

14 And for Genesis?

15 ATTY. CERAME: Good morning, Your Honor.

16 This is Attorney Mario Cerame of Brignole, Bush  
17 & Lewis for Genesis Communication Network  
18 Incorporated.

19 THE COURT: Good morning.

20 Are we waiting on any co-counsel or are we good  
21 to go?

22 Good to go?

23 ATTY. RILAND: Good for go.

24 ATTY. CERAME: Good to good go.

25 ATTY. STERLING: Good to go.

26 THE COURT: Great.

27 Okay. So, I'll start with Attorney Cerame

1 first, which I sometimes do so that I don't neglect  
2 him.

3 And I see that you do have a motion to withdraw  
4 appearance that was filed, so am I correct in  
5 assuming that you would like the hearing date for  
6 that, counsel?

7 ATTY. CERAME: That's correct. And, normally,  
8 I'm supposed to schedule it with the clerk but I  
9 thought given our present procedures, it would be  
10 best to schedule it with the court. And I will also  
11 say, as a sidebar, that there have been -- since I  
12 filed the motion, there have been attempts to rectify  
13 the issue that is the genesis of the motion.

14 THE COURT: All right. So, you could always,  
15 you know, mark it off or withdraw the motion if at  
16 the time of the hearing it's no longer in effect.

17 ATTY. CERAME: I also want to note, I don't want  
18 to be the boy who cried wolf and doing this again.  
19 So, I'm trying to make arrangements such that this  
20 will never be necessary again. And I apologize for  
21 taking the courts time for something that may not be  
22 necessary.

23 THE COURT: That's -- no worries. So, shall I  
24 put it down, then, for next status conference which  
25 is April 20th?

26 ATTY. CERAME: Yes, Your Honor. I think  
27 that's -- sorry.

1 THE COURT: No problem.

2 And if it turns out that it's not necessary,  
3 you know, you will just not pursue the motion and  
4 that's fine.

5 The only thing I would say is that when you  
6 serve the motion and that hearing date, just make  
7 sure that you are also servicing that indicates when  
8 the trial date is because I just looked at it very  
9 quickly, I'm sure that your client does know when the  
10 trial date is, everyone knows when the trial date is,  
11 but just to make sure, in-writing, that if you do  
12 pursue the motion, that it's clear that the case is  
13 scheduled for trial on that, your client is aware of  
14 that.

15 Okay. So, besides that motion, is there  
16 anything else that you've filed since our last status  
17 conference that either is ready to be adjudicated,  
18 Attorney Cerame, or needs a briefing schedule?

19 ATTY. CERAME: No, Your Honor.

20 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

21 So, I'll turn to Attorney Riland.

22 Anything that the Jones' defendants, sir, have  
23 filed that is either ready to be adjudicated or needs  
24 a briefing schedule?

25 ATTY. RILAND: No, Your Honor.

26 THE COURT: Okay. And, by the way, I do know we  
27 had the motion to seal, and I wanted to do this first

1 and then we'll go to the motion to seal.

2 And, Attorney Sterling, turning to you.

3 Is there anything that the plaintiffs have  
4 filed that is either ready to be adjudicated today or  
5 needs a briefing schedule?

6 ATTY. STERLING: No, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: All right. So, the only thing,  
8 then, that is -- we are up to entry number 725. The  
9 only item that's been filed to date that needs to be  
10 adjudicated is the motion for permission to withdraw  
11 appearance. So, as we go forward, it will just be  
12 new filings. I just want to make sure we continue  
13 with that clear instruction that if it's not  
14 identified at the status conference, it's waived, but  
15 it seems like we are totally on top of things so that  
16 is good.

17 All right. So, we have the motions to seal in  
18 all three files. And let me just pull it up.

19 So, give me one moment, please?

20 All right. So, in the lead case that I cited,  
21 the docket number, it's motion to seal number 690,  
22 and I will just state for the record that all three  
23 cases were properly noticed. I checked on the  
24 judicial branch web site, so notice is proper. There  
25 is no one present in my courtroom. I'm here in  
26 Waterbury today. But I will ask, in case anyone is  
27 listening in or otherwise aware, are there any

1 members of the public that wish to be heard on the  
2 motions to seal?

3 Hearing nothing, we can proceed.

4 So, Attorney Sterling, this is your motion to  
5 seal.

6 ATTY. STERLING: Yes, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: And --

8 ATTY. STERLING: It's just filed pursuant to the  
9 protective order because there were some supporting  
10 materials for this motion that were claimed as  
11 confidential by the Jones' defendants. So, it's our  
12 position that there isn't anything that requires  
13 sealing but -- and that the standard for sealing is  
14 not met given the height of that standard, and really  
15 the, you know, it would be on the Jones defendants to  
16 carry that burden.

17 THE COURT: All right. And I neglected to state  
18 for the record that the defendants filed a memorandum  
19 in support of the motion to seal.

20 Let me just pull up that entry number, at  
21 number 700. That was filed on February 24th. And as  
22 I'm understanding it, Attorney Riland, I think that  
23 the only item at issue is found in Exhibit D; is that  
24 the only thing that the Jones' defendants are  
25 pursuing that they are looking to have sealed?

26 ATTY. RILAND: Your Honor, I must apologize to  
27 the court. I'm at a bit of a disadvantage. As the

1 court knows, we are currently in the midst of, and  
2 undergoing depositions right now. This is Attorney  
3 Pattis' motion to seal, and I'm not prepared to speak  
4 on it at this time.

5 THE COURT: That's not a problem. That's not a  
6 problem. We can carry it over to -- I found notice  
7 and I've inquired as to whether any members of the  
8 public wish to be heard, so Mr. Ferraro, if you could  
9 write-on, for our next status conference, the motion  
10 to seal again, and if you can put it in the Info 1  
11 note so that I don't forget, that would be great, and  
12 we could address it at that time. Okay. That's not  
13 a problem.

14 ATTY. RILAND: Thank you, Your Honor.

15 THE COURT: Okay. Is there anything else that  
16 we need to deal with today?

17 ATTY. CERAME: I don't believe so, Your Honor.

18 THE COURT: Okay. That was a short one.

19 ATTY. STERLING: Yes.

20 THE COURT: Stay well everyone, and I will see  
21 you next month if not before then.

22 ATTY. RILAND: You as well. Thank you, Judge.

23 ATTY. STERLING: Thank you, Your Honor.

24 Thank you, Your Honor.

25 Thank you, Mr. Ferraro.  
26  
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15 C E R T I F I C A T E

16 I, Linda A. Coon, hereby certify that this is a true  
 17 and accurate transcription of the above-referenced case,  
 18 heard in Superior Court, Judicial District of Waterbury,  
 19 Connecticut, before the Honorable Barbara N. Bellis, on this  
 20 16th day of March, 2022.

21  
 22 Dated this 30th day of March, 2022, in Waterbury,  
 23 Connecticut.

24  
 25 \_\_\_\_\_  
 26 Linda A. Coon  
 27 Court Monitor/ Court Reporter



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